

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-40 (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter comprising a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being closed against particulate material flow and said second portion providing a through path for particulate material flow, said first portion and said second portion being separated by barrier means, said barrier means formed from a membrane of vapour porous polymeric material having pores therein, which pores have a pore size of less than about 0.1 μ m, wherein said first portion forms a core and said second portion forms an outer annulus of a core-annulus arrangement and wherein said first and said second portions are in coaxial alignment.

42. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein the barrier means is porous to the vapour phase of smoke.

43. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said barrier means is formed from a flexible material.

44. (Currently Amended). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, ~~polyvinylidene~~ polyvinylidene fluoride, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, nylon, TeflonTM (PTFE), cellulose acetate or nitrocellulose.

45. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion of the tobacco smoke filter comprises an adsorbent material.

46. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 45, wherein said adsorbent material is a general adsorbent.

47. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 46, wherein said general adsorbent is a carbonaceous material.

48. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 47, wherein said carbonaceous material is in the form of a thread, particles/granules, cloth, paper or a reconstituted carbon-containing paper.
49. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 46, wherein said general adsorbent is a non-carbonaceous material selected from the group consisting of zeolite, silica, meerschau, aluminum oxide or combinations thereof.
50. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion of said smoke filter comprises a catalyst.
51. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 50, wherein said catalyst facilitates the conversion of carbon monoxide (CO) to carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the vapour phase of the smoke.
52. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 51, wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of transition metal oxides, silica, alumina, zeolites, impregnated carbon.
53. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion of said smoke filter comprises a selective adsorbent.
54. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 53, wherein said selective adsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of an ion-exchange resin, zeolite or silica.
55. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion comprises an adsorbent and a catalyst.
56. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said filter further comprises a third portion, which third portion comprises an adsorbent.

57. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter comprising a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being closed against particulate material flow and said second portion providing a through path for particulate material flow, said first portion and said second portion being separated by barrier means, said barrier means is formed from a vapour porous polymeric material having pores therein, which pores have a pore size of less than about 01.µm, wherein said filter further comprises a third portion, which third portion comprises an adsorbant and wherein said third portion is located upstream of said first portion of the filter.

58. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said second portion of said filter comprises a conventional smoke filtration material.

59. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 58, wherein said conventional smoke filtration material is one or more of cellulose acetate, paper and polypropylene.

60. (Canceled).

61. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 60[41], wherein said first portion forms an inner core and said second portion forms an outer annulus of a core-annulus arrangement.

62. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter, comprising a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being closed against particulate material flow and said second portion providing a through path for particulate material flow, said first portion and said second portion being separated by barrier means, said barrier means is formed from a vapour porous polymeric material having pores therein, which pores have a pore size of less than about 0.1µm and wherein said second portion forms a core and said first portion

forms an outer annulus of a core-annulus arrangement and wherein said first and said second portions are in coaxial alignment.

63. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion is formed of a number of discrete, substantially longitudinal segments arranged in co-axial alignment within said second portion of said filter.

64. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 63, wherein each segment of said first portion is separated from said second portion by barrier means.

65. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said first portion is closed to the through flow of particulate phase material at the upstream end thereof.

66. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 65, wherein closure of said first portion is achieved by a plug.

67. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 66, wherein said plug is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of a high pressure drop cellulose acetate, polypropylene, polyethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, nylon, Teflon™ (PTFE), nitrocellulose, plastic or metal.

68. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein said filter further comprises additional portions of conventional smoke filtration material.

69. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 41, wherein at least said first and second portions are in co-axial alignment with at least one additional filter portion.

70. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 69, wherein said at least one additional portion of said filter is in end-to-end abutment with said first and second portions of the filter.

71. (Previously Presented). A smoke filter according to claim 68, wherein said additional portions are comprised of cellulose acetate.

72. (Previously Presented). A smoking article comprising a smoke filter according to claim 41 in combination with a rod of smoking material wrapped in a wrapper.

73. (Previously Presented). A smoking article according to claim 72, wherein said smoking material comprises a flavourant.

74. (Previously Presented). A smoking article according to claim 73, wherein said flavourant is in stabilized or encapsulated form.

75. (Previously Presented). A smoking article according to Claim 73, wherein said flavourant is a non-volatile flavourant.

76. (Canceled).

77. (Canceled).

78. (Canceled).